

# Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/US05/004660

International filing date: 11 February 2005 (11.02.2005)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: US

Number: 60/544,275

Filing date: 12 February 2004 (12.02.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 11 March 2005 (11.03.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland  
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse

1291403

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

*March 02, 2005*

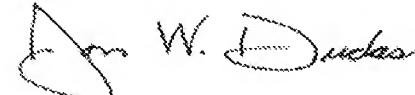
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ANNEXED HERETO IS A TRUE COPY FROM  
THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK  
OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT  
APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A  
FILING DATE.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/544,275

FILING DATE: *February 12, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US05/04660

Certified by



Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Intellectual Property  
and Director of the United States  
Patent and Trademark Office



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET**

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

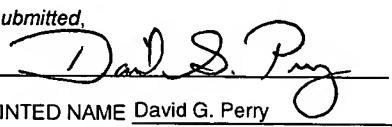
Express Mail Label No. ER 187800384 US

INVENTOR(S)				
Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname		Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
Hamid		Saadatmanesh		Tucson, Arizona
Additional inventors are being named on the <u>separately numbered sheets attached hereto</u>				
<b>TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)</b>				
Composite Dowel System and Related Method				
Direct all correspondence to: <b>CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">021368</span>				
OR				
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">David G. Perry</span>				
Address <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Office of Technology Transfer; The University of Arizona</span>				
Address <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">888 N. Euclid Ave., Rm. 204; P.O. Box 210158</span>				
City <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Tucson</span>		State <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Arizona</span>	Zip <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">85721</span>	
Country <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">USA</span>		Telephone <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">520-621-5000</span>	Fax <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">520-626-4600</span>	
<b>ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">25</span>		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">_____</span>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5</span>		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">_____</span>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Date Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76				
<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.				
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">500884</span>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.				
<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">80.00</span>				
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____				

[Page 1 of 2]

Respectfully submitted, Date 2/12/2004

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE 

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME David G. Perry

REGISTRATION NO. 34,405

(if appropriate)

Docket Number: UA 04-054

TELEPHONE 520-621-5000

**USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Provisional Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

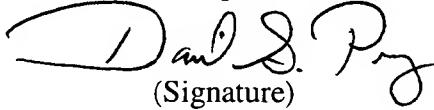
## EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

“Express Mail” mailing label No. **ER 187800384 US**

Date of Deposit: **February 12, 2004**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is  
being deposited with the United States Postal  
Service as “Express Mail Post Office to Addressee”  
service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on date indicated  
above and such envelope is addressed to Mail Stop Provisional  
Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents,  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

David G. Perry  
(Name of Applicant, assignee or  
registered representative)



(Signature)

2/12/04

(Date)

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- ✓ TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

**Title: “Composite Dowel System and related method”**

**Inventors: Hamid Saadatmanesh**

**Background and Summary**

- [0100] The present invention relates to a composite dowel structure for a hollow support structure (e.g. a light pole), and to methods and structures used in creating such a composite dowel structure. The present invention also discloses related methods for preparing, repairing and/or reinforcing hollow support structures.
- [0101] Hollow support structures such as light poles generally extend both in ground and above ground, and are often subject to deterioration (e.g. corrosion, wear) that can weaken the structures. For example, light poles may be constructed of steel, iron or fiberglass. With steel or iron poles, deterioration (e.g. corrosion) generally forms near the base of the pole, and may extend into the in ground portion of the pole. Unless the pole can be adequately repaired and reinforced, to compensate for the deterioration, the pole may require replacement.
- [0102] Structural deterioration of a fiberglass pole can also require either adequate repair or reinforcement of the pole to compensate for the deterioration, or may require replacement of the pole.
- [0103] The present invention provides a method of creating a composite dowel to repair existing hollow support structures, e.g. light poles made of steel, iron, or fiberglass, that have lost tensile, shear and bending strength due to corrosion or other types of structural deterioration.
- [0104] Moreover, the present invention provides a hollow support structure with a composite dowel that is formed, in situ, in the support structure, and is designed to provide tensile, shear and bending strength to the support structure.

[0105] In addition, the present invention provides methods and structures that are useful in repairing a hollow support structure. For example, the method includes a new and useful technique for preparing the support structure for receiving an epoxy resin aggregate that produces the composite dowel structure.

[0106] A hollow support structure that has been repaired by a composite dowel structure according to the present invention is designed to provide high tensile, shear and bending strength structural reinforcement to the support structure (e.g. increase bending moment to withstand loads such as wind loads).

[0107] Additionally, the principles of the present invention can be used to form, in situ, a composite dowel structure that reinforces the hollow support structure, irrespective of whether the hollow support structure is in need of repair.

[0108] Still further, the present invention provides related techniques for reinforcing a hollow support structure, in situ.

[0109] Further aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings and exhibits.

#### **Brief Description of the Drawings and Exhibit**

[0110] Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of a hollow pole, before the pole is repaired and reinforced, according to the principles of the present invention;

[0111] Figure 2 is a schematic illustration of a hollow pole that has been repaired and reinforced with a composite dowel structure, according to the principles of the present invention;

[0112] Figure 2a is a schematic, three dimensional illustration of a sleeve that is used in forming a composite dowel, in situ, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

).

).

- [0113] Figure 2b is a fragmentary illustration of a portion of a hollow pole that has a composite dowel structure formed, in situ, according to the principles of the present invention;
- [0114] Figure 3a is a schematic illustration of certain steps in preparing a pole to be reinforced, according to the principles of the present invention;
- [0115] Figure 3b is a schematic illustration of steps in completing reinforcement of the pole, according to the principles of the present invention;
- [0116] Figure 4 is a fragmentary schematic illustration of a mouth formed in a fabric sleeve that has been installed in a pole, as part of the preparation of the pole structure, according to the principles of the present invention;
- [0117] Figures 5a-h schematically illustrates certain steps in repairing and reinforcing a pole structure, according to the principles of the present invention; and
- [0118] Figure 6 is a schematic illustration of an alternative way of repairing and reinforcing a pole structure, according to the principles of the present invention.
- [0119] Exhibits 1a-1h are color illustrations of the steps illustrated in Figures 5a-f.
- [0120] Exhibit 2a is a color illustration of the illustration of Figure 2a.

#### **Detailed Description**

- [0121] As described above, the present invention relates to a composite dowel structure, and to related techniques, for preparing, repairing and/or reinforcing a hollow support structure such as a light pole. The principles of the invention are particularly useful in repairing and reinforcing a deteriorated portion of a light pole, and are described below in connection with a deteriorated portion of a light pole made of steel or iron. However, from that description, the manner in which the principles of the present invention can be used to reinforce various other types of hollow support structures will be apparent to those in the art.

) )

[0122] As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, a light pole 100 comprises a hollow body 102 that is made of iron or steel, and has an above ground portion 104 and an in ground portion 106. The pole 100 has a deteriorated portion 108 that is disposed at ground level 110, and extends partly into the in ground portion 106. The deteriorated portion 108 has been caused by corrosion or other environmental conditions. According to the present invention, the pole 100 is repaired and reinforced in a manner that a composite dowel structure 112 is formed, in situ, in the pole, and repairs and strengthens the pole. In the embodiment of Figure 2, the composite dowel structure 112 comprises a high tensile strength fabric sleeve 114 that is filled and saturated with an epoxy resin aggregate material 116.

[0123] As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the pole 100 has an access opening 118 that is located in the above ground portion 104 of the pole. The access opening 118, which may have a removable cover (not shown), that normally enables technicians to access the electronic components (e.g. wires, cables) inside the pole. According to the present invention, the access opening 118 is useful in preparing the pole for the formation of a composite dowel structure, in situ, in the pole, and in forming the composite dowel structure, in situ, in the pole, as described in more detail below. If no access opening exists one must be created.

[0124] Initially, the pole 100 is inspected, and the deteriorated portion 108 identified. In applicants' experience, the deteriorated portion 108 may result in an opening 108a (Figure 5a, Exhibit 1a) that extends slightly above ground level 110 and also extends into the in ground portion 106. During the inspection of the pole, the depth D of the deteriorated portion 108 (i.e. the vertical distance over which the deteriorated portion extends) is preferably determined.

[0125] It is preferable to wrap the exterior of the pole, at least over the depth D of the deteriorated portion 108. A fiberglass or carbon fabric can be wrapped about the pole and adhered to the pole by an epoxy resin. In Figure 2, the wrapping is schematically shown at 119, and its purpose is to contain the dowel materials in the pole, during installation. Suitable wrapping

materials can be obtained from HJ<sub>3</sub> Composite Technologies, LLC (Tucson, Arizona), but there are various tapes and wrappings on the market that would be suitable as a wrapping for the pole, to contain the dowel materials in the pole during installation. It is also preferred to prepare the outer surface of the pole (e.g. brush the outer surface with a wire brush, to remove loose paint and debris, and wipe the surface with a rag saturated with acetone), before wrapping the tape, to eliminate significant areas of corrosion that could interfere with the effective wrapping of tape about the pole (see. e.g. Figure 5b and Exhibit 1b). The wrapping 119 also protects against water and oxygen, the main ingredients for corrosion, while also providing protection from damage from landscaping tools (e.g. weed whackers) that may be used about the pole. The tape wrapping is intended to seal voids so that epoxy resin aggregate does not leak out of the pole during the formation of the composite dowel. While it is preferred to wrap the tape about the deteriorated portion 108, as part of the preparation of the pole, it is also recognized that under certain circumstances (e.g. if the corrosion has not created a hole extending completely through the pole), wrapping the tape about the deteriorated portion of the pole can also be performed just before the epoxy resin aggregate is poured into the pole. Figures 3a and 3b illustrate, in dashed lines, points in the process at which the wrapping could be applied.

[0126] It is also desirable, during the inspection of the pole, to determine if there is a predetermined amount of “good pole material” below the access opening 118. With a steel pole, for example, it is preferable to determine that there is at least 6” of continuous good steel (“good steel” meaning not heavily corroded) between the ground 110 and the bottom of the access opening 118. This can be subjective, but a gauge reading of the thickness of existing steel in this area will show the degradation of the steel. If there is less than 15% steel loss, then the steel is considered “good steel”. If it is determined that there is not at least 6” of continuous good steel between the ground and the bottom of the access opening 118, then a new access opening must be cut above the existing access opening (and the cover of the existing access opening should then remain on). Installation crews can

use a grinder to cut a new access hole into the steel pole. It is also considered desirable to insulate the wires on the inside of the pole by placing a fire resistant cloth up through the existing access opening to the point where the new access opening will be cut to minimize damage to existing wires.

- [0127] In preparing the pole for the formation of a composite dowel structure, in situ, a tape measure can be placed into the access opening 118 of the pole and pushed to the depth of the pole to determine the distance below ground that the pole is buried. Once that distance is determined, a fabric sleeve 120 is formed and configured to be located inside the pole. The fabric sleeve preferable has two sleeve parts; an outer sleeve 122 part formed primarily of fiberglass, and an inner sleeve part 124 formed primarily of carbon (see e.g. Figures 2a, 2b). Each sleeve part is preferably formed with biaxial fibers (preferable at 45 degree angles of fiber orientation in a criss-cross pattern). The carbon and glass sleeves are cut to appropriate equal lengths, such that the length of the sleeve 120 is preferably the distance measured from the bottom of the pole to the bottom of the access opening 118 (plus about 12 to 18 inches for slack).
- [0128] An important step in preparing the pole for the formation, in situ, of a composite dowel structure, is the step of placing the sleeve 120 in the pole. Initially, the carbon sleeve part 124 is placed inside the fiberglass sleeve part 122, so that when the sleeve 120 is inserted in the pole, the fiberglass sleeve part 122 contacts the interior steel wall 121 of the pole (see Figure 2b). This will insulate the more durable carbon sleeve part 124 from the steel pole, avoiding galvanic corrosion (due to dissimilar materials). The lower end of the sleeve 120 is tied off (e.g. by a zip tie, see Figure 5c and Exhibit 1c), and the upper end of the sleeve 120 has an opening 126 that is used to form a mouth surrounding the access opening, whose purpose is described below. The sleeve 120 is placed over a rod 27, e.g. a flexible poly vinyl chloride (pvc) rod 127 (Figures 4, 5d, Exhibit 1d), which is preferably 5 feet of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch flexible pvc material, and the rod with the combined carbon/glass sleeve is inserted into the pole through the mouth

126 (Figure 4) and the access opening 118 until the rod reaches a predetermined depth, which can be as much as the bottom of the in ground part of the pole. The rod 127 acts as a plunger, to push the sleeve 120 to a predetermined depth in the pole, which can be the bottom of the in ground part of the pole. Then, the rod 127 is pulled out of the sleeve, leaving the combined carbon/glass sleeve inside the pole, and with the opening 126 of the sleeve located at about the access opening 118 in the pole (Figure 4). The border of the opening is rolled back about the outside of the access opening 118, so that the opening 126 forms a mouth at the access opening of the pole. The mouth 126 enables epoxy resin aggregate to be poured into the sleeve and the hollow pole. During this preparation stage, it is desirable to push any wires or cables inside the pole against the back of the pole (away from the access opening).

[0129] The epoxy resin aggregate is a high tensile strength material, and is preferably formed in the following way. The epoxy resin aggregate preferably comprises the following materials: (a) Sand; (b) Gravel; e.g. 3/8" Granite; (c) Saturating Resin (Epoxy), which can be e.g. HJ<sub>3</sub> SR-400A brand saturating resin (HJ<sub>3</sub> Composite Technologies, LLC, Tucson, AZ), or another commercially available saturating resin that is a true epoxy; (d) an epoxy hardener, e.g. HJ<sub>3</sub> SR-400B brand epoxy hardener (HJ<sub>3</sub> Composite Technologies, LLC, Tucson, AZ), or other commercially available epoxy hardener. The proportions of the foregoing materials of the aggregate are preferably: 24% epoxy resin, 12% epoxy hardener, 33% sand, and 33% granite (3/8" diameter).

[0130] The foregoing materials are placed in a 5 gallon bucket, and a paddle on a low speed drill (400-600 rpm) is used to mix the aggregate for 3 minutes at a slow speed to minimize the creation of air bubbles. After the epoxy components are mixed (for about 3 minutes), the sand and gravel are added. Mixing is then continued for a minimum of 2 additional minutes, or until the aggregate is completely blended. The consistency of the aggregate should be that of syrup. The pot life of the foregoing preferred aggregate is 30 minutes to 1 hour depending on the outside temperature.

Epoxies develop heat during mixing and curing. The temperature rise will depend on mass as well as formulation of the epoxy. To keep temperature to a minimum, it is preferred to maintain a high surface area to volume during mixing. Moreover, it is preferred to keep each mix volume to three gallons or less.

- [0131] The epoxy resin aggregate is then poured into the mouth 126 of the combined carbon/glass sleeve. It may be desirable to wrap the pole prior to pouring the epoxy resin aggregate (see, e.g. Figure 3b, Figure 5e and Exhibit 1e). A trough 129 (Figure 5f, Exhibit 1f), formed preferably of a metal base with a coating or cover (e.g. of Mylar film) enables the epoxy resin aggregate to be efficiently poured through the mouth 126 and into the sleeve and the hollow pole, until the aggregate reaches 2 inches below the bottom of the access opening 118 (Figure 5g, Exhibit 1g). Then, the mouth 126 of the combined carbon/glass sleeve is placed into the pole and pressed down so that the remaining epoxy resin aggregate material is below the bottom of the access opening 118.
- [0132] In this state, the carbon/glass sleeve 120, which has high tensile strength, is located inside the pole, with the glass sleeve part 122 against the interior wall 121 of the pole and separating the carbon sleeve part 124 from the inside of the pole (Figure 2b), and the sleeve extends a depth that at least includes the depth of the deteriorated portion 108. The high strength epoxy resin aggregate 116 substantially fills the pole, and saturates the carbon/glass sleeve 120 (Figure 2b) at least to a depth that encompasses the deteriorated portion 108.
- [0133] If it is desired to wrap the tape about the pole after the epoxy resin aggregate has been poured into the pole, the tape is wrapped about the deteriorated portion at this point (Figure 3b). The epoxy resin aggregate is then allowed to cure, in situ, to complete the composite dowel structure. With such a structure, the high tensile strength sleeve 120 is located over the depth of the deteriorated portion of the pole, is saturated with epoxy resin aggregate, and forms a high tensile strength dowel structure that

repairs and reinforces the pole, particularly over the depth of the deteriorated portion.

- [0134] Once the composite dowel structure is formed, the pole may be finished by replacing the access opening cover, and painting the outside of the pole (Figure 5h, Exhibit 1h).
- [0135] The foregoing structure and method relates to forming a composite dowel structure, in situ, completely inside the pole. It is also possible to repair and/or reinforce a hollow structure such as a pole by a method that at least partially includes providing reinforcement on the outside of the pole. Such a technique can be appreciated by reference to Figure 6. In Figure 6, a pole 140 has a deteriorated portion 142 that may be similar to the deteriorated portion in the prior embodiment. Once the depth D of the deteriorated portion of the pole is identified, a high tensile strength fabric 144 is saturated with a high strength epoxy material, and wrapped about the pole such that the high tensile strength fabric extends at least over the depth of the deteriorated portion 142 of the pole that is being reinforced, and the high strength epoxy material is then allowed to cure, in situ. The fabric 144 preferably comprises a fiberglass fabric part 146 disposed against the pole 140, and a carbon fabric part 148 disposed against the fiberglass part 146.
- [0136] With this technique, the wrapping on the exterior of the pole may be adequate to repair and reinforce the deteriorated portion of the pole. However, it is further contemplated that a composite dowel structure can also be formed by pouring an epoxy resin aggregate 150 into the hollow pole structure, to at least a depth such that the epoxy resin aggregate fills the hollow pole in the area that encompasses the deteriorated portion, and allowing the epoxy resin aggregate to cure, in situ. The epoxy resin aggregate may be poured to the full depth of the pole, or structure such as rocks 152 (or other filler), and possibly a bottom sheet 154 may be inserted into the hollow pole, to effectively control the depth to which the epoxy resin aggregate extends. With this technique, no sleeve would be provided inside the pole.

[0137] From the foregoing description, it should be clear that while the present invention is particularly useful in repairing and reinforcing a hollow structure such as a pole, the principles of the invention can be used to reinforce a hollow support structure, irrespective of whether the hollow support structure has a deteriorated portion, or requires repair. Moreover, the principles of the present invention can be used to repair and/or reinforce various hollow support structures, (e.g. truss or lattice types of structures in which hollow poles or other types of hollow structures function as supports, hollow support structures for off shore platforms, etc.).

[0138] Additionally, while a fabric sleeve and high tensile strength epoxy aggregate are preferred materials to form the composite dowel structure, in situ, the principles of the present invention can be used to form other types of composite dowel structure, in situ, in a hollow support structure. For example, rather than a fabric sleeve, a high tensile strength material such as rebar can be inserted into the hollow pole, to a depth that extends over the depth of the deteriorated portion, and a cementitious aggregate material (i.e. an aggregate that is concrete based) can be poured into the hollow pole, to a depth that incorporates the rebar over the depth of the deteriorated portion of the pole, to form a composite dowel, in situ, in the pole.

[0139] Accordingly, the present invention provides new and useful structures, and related methods for repairing and/or reinforcing hollow support structures such as light poles.

[0140] With the foregoing disclosure in mind, the manner in which the principles of the present invention can be used in connection with the preparation, repair and/or reinforcement of various types of hollow support structures will be apparent to those in the art.

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- ~~TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES~~
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

## Claims

[0141] 1. A pole structure comprising

- a hollow pole having an in ground portion and an above ground portion, and
- a composite dowel structure disposed at least partly in the in ground portion of the pole structure;

the composite dowel structure comprising

- a high tensile strength material disposed at least partly in the in ground portion of the hollow pole, and
- a high tensile strength epoxy resin aggregate substantially filling a predetermined portion of the hollow pole that includes a predetermined portion of the high tensile strength material disposed at least partly in the in ground portion of the hollow pole.

[0142] 2. A pole structure as set forth in claim 1, wherein the high tensile strength material comprises a fabric sleeve disposed next to the interior wall of the hollow pole, and the high tensile strength epoxy resin aggregate saturates a predetermined portion of the fabric sleeve and incorporates the predetermined portion of the fabric sleeve into the composite dowel structure.

[0143] 3. A pole structure as defined in claim 2, wherein the fabric sleeve comprises a fiberglass sleeve next to the interior wall of the pole, and a carbon sleeve inside and next to the fiberglass sleeve.

[0144] 4. A pole structure as defined in claim 3, wherein the pole comprises a metal material, and the above ground portion of the pole includes an access hole disposed above a predetermined depth of good metal of the pole, and wherein the fabric sleeve extends to the access hole.

[0145] 5. A pole structure as defined in claim 4, wherein the metal material has a deteriorated portion that extends at least partially into the in ground

portion of the pole, and wherein the composite dowel structure is configured to reinforce the pole in the area of the deteriorated portion of the metal material.

- [0146] 6. A pole structure as defined in claim 5, further including a wrapping about predetermined portion(s) of the pole, to contain the composite dowel material in the pole.
- [0147] 7. A pole structure as defined in claim 3, wherein the pole has a deteriorated portion that extends at least partially into the in ground portion of the pole, and wherein the composite dowel structure is configured to reinforce the pole in the area of the deteriorated portion of the pole.
- [0148] 8. A pole structure as defined in claim 7, further including a wrapping about predetermined portion(s) of the pole, to contain the composite dowel material in the pole.
- [0149] 9. A method for repairing, in situ, a hollow support structure that includes an in ground portion and an above ground portion, and wherein the hollow support structure has a deteriorated portion extending at least partially into the in ground portion, and an access opening in the above ground portion, comprising the steps of
  - a. placing a high tensile strength material in the hollow support structure, to at least a depth such that the high tensile strength material extends over the depth of the deteriorated portion,
  - b. pouring an aggregate material into the hollow support structure, to incorporate the high strength material into the aggregate that fills the hollow support structure at least over the depth of the deteriorated portion, and
  - c. allowing the aggregate to cure, in situ.
- [0150] 10. A method as set forth in claim 9, wherein
  - a. The step of placing a high tensile strength material in the hollow support structure comprises providing a fabric sleeve having a mouth,

placing the fabric sleeve through the access opening, forcing the sleeve into the in ground portion to at least an in ground depth that extends over the depth of the deteriorated portion, and locating the mouth of the sleeve in the access opening, and

b. The step of pouring the epoxy resin aggregate into the hollow support comprises pouring the epoxy resin aggregate through the mouth of the sleeve, in an amount and to a depth such that the epoxy resin aggregate saturates the fabric sleeve and fills the hollow support structure at least over the depth of the deteriorated portion, and the epoxy resin aggregate extends to the mouth of the fabric sleeve located in the access opening.

- [0151] 11. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the step of forcing the sleeve into the in ground portion of the hollow support structure comprises tying off the sleeve, inserting a rod into the sleeve and using the rod to push the sleeve into the hollow support structure to a predetermined depth.
- [0152] 12. A method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the aggregate comprises an epoxy resin aggregate that is mixed from the following materials; sand, gravel, saturating epoxy and epoxy hardener.
- [0153] 13. A method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the epoxy resin aggregate is mixed in the following relative proportions: 24% saturating epoxy, 12% epoxy hardener, 33% sand and 33% gravel
- [0154] 14. A method as set forth in claim 11, including the further step of wrapping predetermined portion(s) of the hollow support structure, to contain the composite dowel material in the hollow support structure.
- [0155] 15. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of wrapping the exterior of the hollow support structure proceeds the step of pouring epoxy resin aggregate into the hollow support structure.
- [0156] 16. A method of forming, in situ, a dowel structure that reinforces a portion of a hollow support structure that is disposed partly in ground and partly above ground, comprising the steps of;

- a. identifying the depth of the portion of the hollow support structure that is being reinforced,
- b. placing a high tensile strength reinforcement component inside the hollow support structure such that the high tensile strength reinforcement component extends at least over the depth of the portion of the hollow support structure that is being reinforced, and
- c. pouring into the hollow support structure an epoxy aggregate that substantially fills the hollow support structure at least over the depth of the portion of the hollow support structure that is being reinforced, and allowing the epoxy aggregate to cure in situ.

[0157] 17. A method of forming, in situ, a structure that reinforces a deteriorated portion of a hollow support structure, the hollow support structure being disposed partly in ground and partly above ground, comprising the steps of;

- a. identifying the depth of the deteriorated portion of the hollow support structure that is being reinforced,
- b. saturating a high tensile strength fabric with a high strength epoxy material, and
- c. wrapping the saturated high tensile strength fabric about the hollow support structure such that the high tensile strength fabric extends at least over the depth of the deteriorated portion of the hollow support structure that is being reinforced, and allowing the high strength epoxy material to cure, in situ.

[0158] 18. A method as set forth in claim 17, including the further step of pouring an epoxy resin aggregate into the hollow pole structure, to at least a depth such that the epoxy resin aggregate fills the hollow pole in the area that encompasses the deteriorated portion, and allowing the epoxy resin aggregate to cure, in situ.

) )

[0159] 19. A method for preparing a hollow support structure that includes an in ground portion and an above ground portion, and a deteriorated portion extending at least partially into the in ground portion, and an access opening in the above ground portion, for incorporation of a composite dowel structure into the hollow support structure, comprising the steps of

- a. providing a fabric sleeve of high tensile strength fabric having a mouth,
- b. placing the fabric sleeve through the access opening,
- c. forcing the sleeve into the in ground portion to at least an in ground depth that extends over the depth of the deteriorated portion, and
- d. locating the mouth of the sleeve in the access opening, so that an epoxy resin aggregate can be poured into the hollow support structure through the mouth of the sleeve.

[0160] 20. A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein the step of forcing the sleeve into the in ground portion comprises inserting a rod into the fabric sleeve and pushing the rod into the in ground portion, to push the sleeve into the in ground portion to the in ground depth.

[0161] 21. A method as set forth in claim 20, including forming the sleeve of a carbon sleeve part disposed inside a fiberglass sleeve part.

## Abstract

[0162] A composite dowel structure and related methods are provided, for preparing, repairing and/or reinforcing existing hollow support structures, e.g. light poles made of steel, iron, or fiberglass, especially support structures that have lost tensile strength due to corrosion or other types of deterioration. The methods are particularly useful in preparing, repairing and/or reinforcing a hollow support structure, by forming a composite dowel structure, in situ, in the hollow support structure..

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

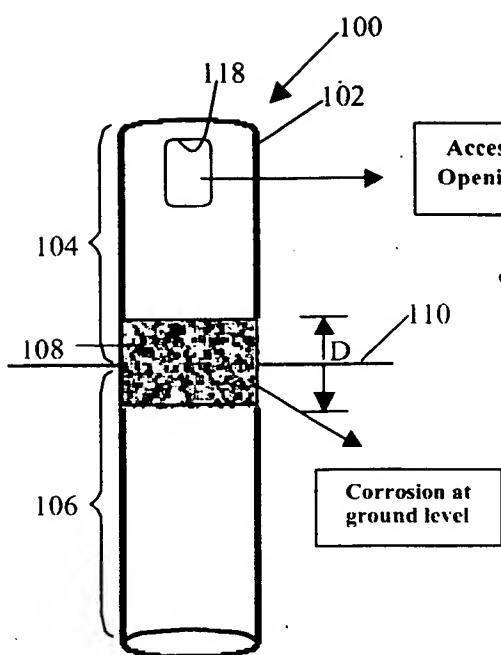
Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

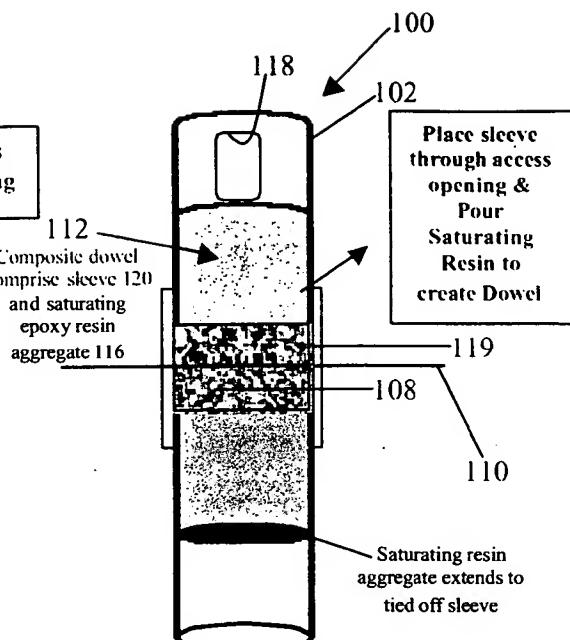
- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- ~~BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS~~
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

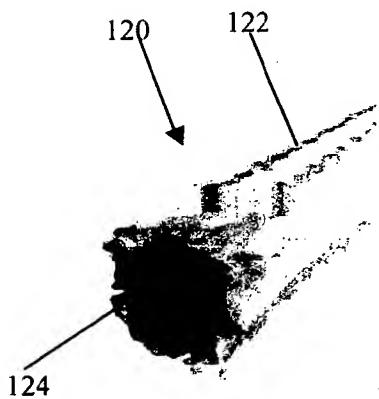
**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**



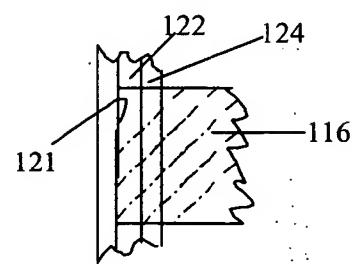
**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 2a**



**Figure 2b**

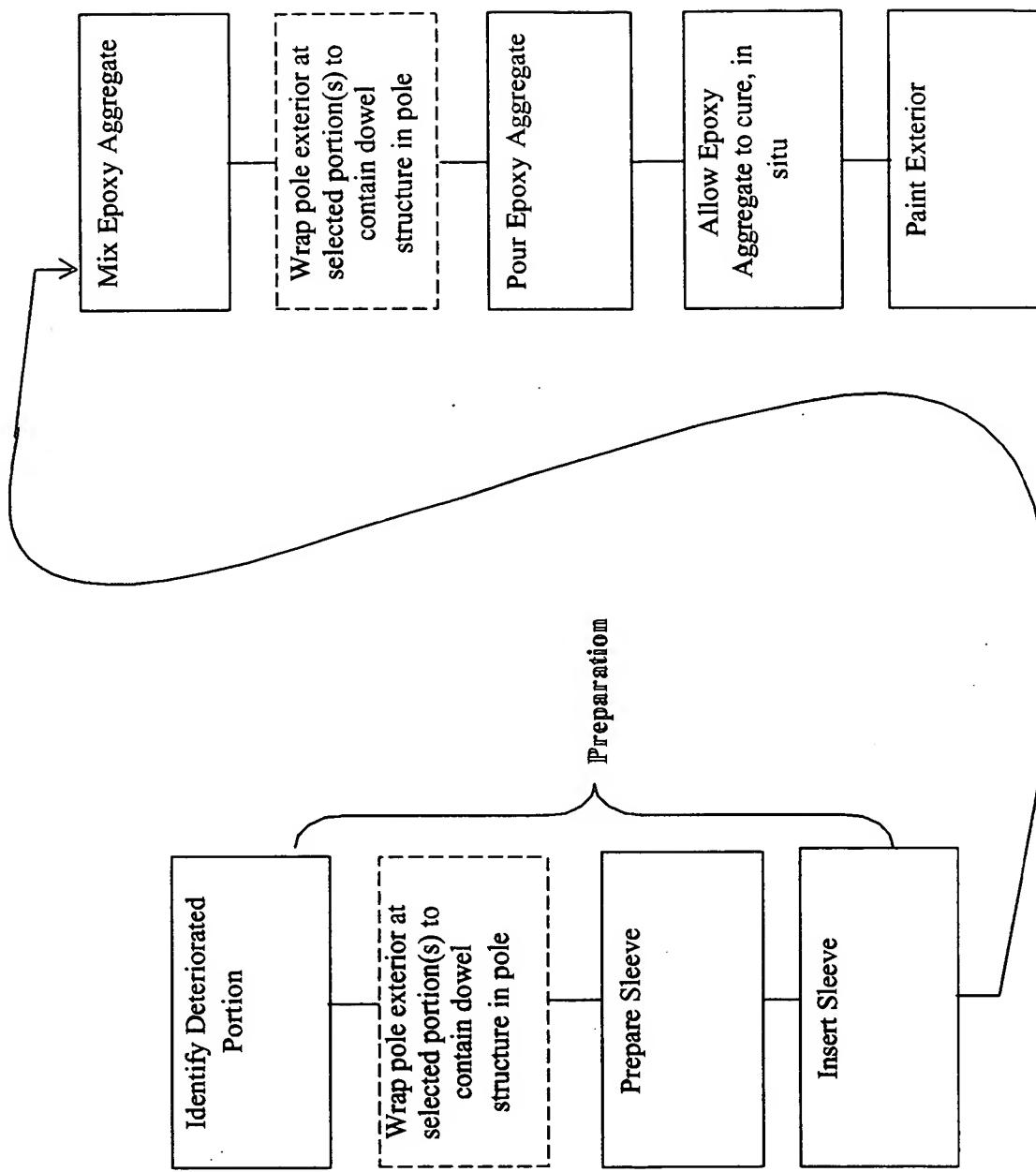


Figure 3a

Figure 3b



100

127

126

Figure 4



108a      Figure 5a - Inspection



Figure 5e – Wrap Pole



Figure 5b – Clean Pole Surface



Figure 5f – Pour Epoxy Resin Aggregate



Figure 5c - Tie off end of sleeve at  
the bottom with a zip tie



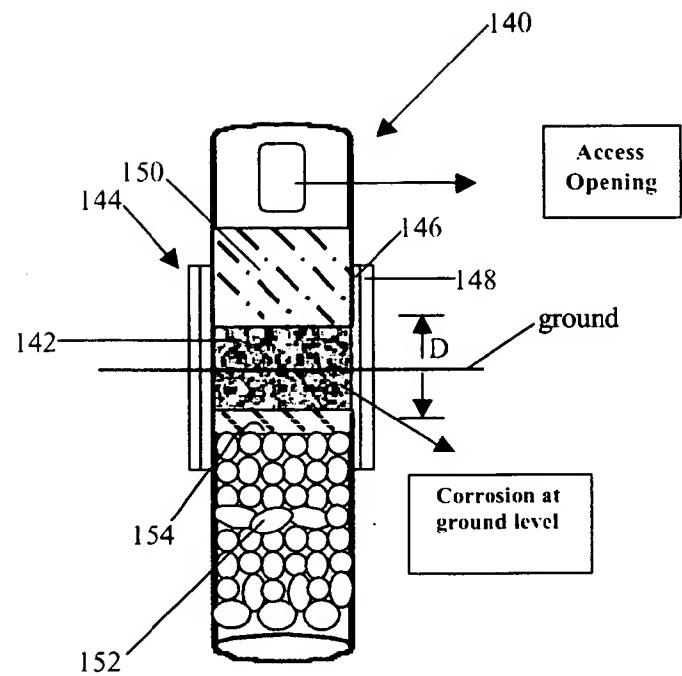
Figure 5g – Epoxy Resin Filled



Figure 5d – Insert Fabric Sleeve



Figure 5h – Paint Pole



**Figure 6**